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Foreign Crops and MARKETS

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ARGENTINA

The corn crop is developing well and large yields are anticipated, according to current reports. Heavy requirements for fuel are, however, expected to absorb large quantities.

RUMANIA

Trade sources report that though the wheat surplus is still large exports have been small, as a result of transportation difficulties.

NETHERLANDS

The composition of bread flour in the Netherlands at present is 39 percent wheat flour, 50 percent rye flour, 9 percent potato flour, and 2 percent pea flour.

LITHUANIA

Farmers in Lithuania were required to deliver all of their 1943 grain crops to the German authorities except the precise amounts necessary for their own use. Feeding of bread grain to livestock was prohibited. The Nazis called for deliveries of 80 percent of the rye quota, 70 percent of the barley quota, and 60 percent of the oats quota by December 1. The balance was to be delivered by December 31, 1943. Defaulters were to be severely punished. Premiums were promised farmers who delivered their quotas on time. The premiums are payable in the form of points that entitle farmers to purchase specified quantities of rationed goods and equipment.

SPAIN

To aid in drafting a sugar program for Spain, the General Commission for Supply and Transport has estimated Spanish production of beet and cane sugar for 1944 at 140,000 metric tons, and Spanish requirements at 318,583 tons, pointing out that approximately 178,000 tons had to be imported.

BRAZIL

By a decree of December 16, 1943, the Government of Brazil exempted imports of beef from import duties and all other customs charges for a period of 6 months. Such duty-free imports, however, may be made only with the prior authorization of the Service of Supply, Office of the Coordinator of Economic Mobilization.

JAPAN

The Japanese Cabinet has approved the establishment of a permanent food council to control the production and distribution of food supplies in Japan, Manchuria, Chosen, and Taiwan. The Council will coordinate all existing regulations pertaining to food and will take whatever steps are necessary to self-sufficiency in food supplies.

Gordon P. Boals, in charge

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA HARVESTS LARGER GRAIN CROPS

The Union of South Africa's winter grain crops harvested in November-December 1943 were larger than the 1942 production, according to information received in the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. The 1943 wheat harvest was officially estimated at about 21.7 million bushels, or slightly more than a million bushels larger than the good 1942 crop, recently revised to 20.4 million bushels, and is, with the exception of the 1935 production, the largest crop on record. The 1943 oats harvest is placed at 8.3 million bushels, compared with the preceding crop of 6.4 million bushels. The barley and rye outturns were also larger than in 1942. No estimate is available of the corn acreage now being planted, but according to official indications, it will not exceed the 6,880,000 acres planted in the preceding year. Yields will probably be smaller, as a result of the scarcity of superphosphates, which were imported principally from the Netherlands prior to the war.

The increased crops were obtained despite unfavorable weather during part of the growing season and the handicap of the fertilizer shortage. Weather conditions were variable, with widespread drought during the early part of the season, which continued for several months in the Cape Province. At the same time, excessive rainfall was reported in wheat areas of the Orange Free State. These two areas account for the bulk of the wheat crop as well as a large percentage of other small grains.

The larger harvests are attributed to acreage increases as well as to better yields. Acreage expansion was sponsored by the Union Government in order to meet increased demands. These needs could not be met from outside sources under existing shipping difficulties, and the Government's program of comparatively high guaranteed prices and subsidies was designed to increase the domestic supply of grains. The area seeded to small grains in 1943 shows an increase of around 5 percent, compared with 1942 seedings, and is a record acreage. The largest increase is reported for oats, which is about 100,000 acres larger than in 1942. Indications point to a continuance of the large acreage, at least until the end of the war, but no further expansion is expected in view of the shortage of fertilizer.

Although the wheat production is about a million bushels larger than in 1942, the current supply is not expected to provide any surplus, and restrictions against the baking of white bread are expected to continue. Reports indicate some agitation for a change from the standard war bread, which requires the admixture of corn and other grains with wheat. Substitution of these grains is credited with cutting down imports by about 3 million bushels. The increased supply of rye, oats, and barley is also expected to be utilized within the country. These crops are used mainly for human consumption in the Union of South Africa.

The Wheat Industry Control Board is the sole purchase agent and controls distribution and prices of these grains as well as of wheat. Prices to producers have been fixed on the 1943 crop of wheat, beginning with 29s. per bag (the equivalent of about $1.73 per bushel) for the top grades and decreasing to 18s.7d. ($1.11 per bushel) for the lowest grade. In addition subsidies are paid ranging from 7s.6d.

($0.45 per bushel) for the high grades of wheat to 4s.9d. ($0.28) for the lowest grades. Both prices and subsidies show substantial increases compared with prices received for the 1942 crop.

The prices fixed on rye range from 23s.6d. to 21s.6d. per bag ($1.31 to $1.20 per bushel). Oats prices are set at 15s. to 14s. ($0.48 to $0.45 per bushel), and barley at 22s.6d. to 14s. ($1.07 to $0.67 per bushel). Control of these three grains was first assumed with the 1942 crop, and the prices fixed on oats and rye of the 1943 crop are unchanged from those originally set. Barley prices this season are, however, somewhat higher than prices fixed on last year's crop.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA: Grain acreage and production, 1938-1943 a/

YEAR	WHEAT	RYE	OATS	BARLEY
	1,000 acres	*1,000 acres*	*1,000 acres*	*1,000 acres*
ACREAGE				
1938	1,854	122	580	77
1939	2,132	b/	b/	b/
1940	2,313	b/	b/	b/
1941	2,362	b/	500	b/
1942	2,669	188	785	106
Average	2,266	b/	b/	b/
1943	2,702	215	888	143
PRODUCTION	*1,000 bushels*	*1,000 bushels*	*1,000 bushels*	*1,000 bushels*
1938	c/ 17,388	841	7,354	1,557
1939	c/ 15,310	789	5,855	1,441
1940	c/ 15,600	718	5,869	1,653
1941	13,733	668	5,766	1,906
1942	c/ 20,400	802	6,405	1,643
Average	16,486	764	6,250	1,640
1943	c/ 21,733	1,000	8,325	2,006

From official and unofficial sources. a/ Data for European farms only, except where noted. b/ Not available. c/ Includes native production.

CHILEAN RICE ACREAGE AGAIN INCREASED

The area sown to rice in Chile during the planting season, October-December, of the 1943-44 crop year registered a 16-percent increase, and amounted to 82,000 acres as compared with 70,000 acres planted a year ago, according to the first official estimate of the Ministry of Agriculture. This is the fourth consecutive year in which rice acreage has exceeded that of the preceding year, with a result that it is now about three times as large as in 1940-41.

Consumption was estimated at 84 million pounds in 1943, which is a substantial gain of 20 million pounds above previous annual consumption. Because of expanded acreage of wheat and rice in 1943-44, it is expected that the cereal supply will provide for increased consumption and a larger exportable surplus of rice in 1944. Chile, which prior to 1930 imported all rice requirements, became a net exporter in 1941, and in 1943 probably was the third largest rice-exporting country in South America.

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS . . .

Fred J. Rossiter, in charge

ARGENTINA REPORTS RECORD COTTONSEED PRODUCTION

The cottonseed obtained from the Argentine cotton crop harvested early in 1943 was officially estimated at 226,000 short tons compared with 171,000 tons in 1942 and a previous record of 220,000 tons in 1936. With an increased cotton acreage for the 1944 crop, another record production is possible this year. A preliminary report on the crop to be harvested during February - April 1944 indicates that about 1,000,000 acres were planted, an increase of 21 percent above the 1943 harvested area of 831,000 acres. Weather conditions were generally favorable during the planting and early growing periods.

Exports of cottonseed have been negligible since 1936 when about 9,500 short tons were exported. No exports have been reported since 1939. Cottonseed-oil exports, however, increased rather sharply from 1,300 short tons in 1940 to 8,200 tons in 1942 and 12,400 tons for the first 9 months of 1943. Exports of edible vegetable oils and oilseeds, including cottonseed and oil, were prohibited after June 1, 1943, except in fulfillment of contracts effected prior to that date. This was a conservation measure taken after most of the 1943 oilseed crops were reduced by drought. Cottonseed-oil exports during the last 3 months of 1943 were probably insignificant, and the oil will not move again in volume until the new crop becomes available in March.

PEANUT CULTIVATION ENCOURAGED IN PERU

Peanut acreage in Peru is expected to be increased from around 500 acres in 1942-43 to upward of 1,500 acres for 1943-44 as a result of strong local demand and favorable prices. The crop is usually planted in December and harvested in June and July. Minimum prices set on October 14, 1943, for peanuts delivered to the Government at designated warehouses are equivalent to 6.07 cents per pound for shelled peanuts and 4.55 cents for peanuts in the shell. Minimum wholesale prices are equivalent to 6.83 and 6.37 cents respectively and retail prices, 11.17 and 6.98 cents.

While there is evidence to indicate that peanuts were grown in Peru during the Inca period they are only now being cultivated there on a commercial scale for the first time. Consumption has increased since 1939, partly to replace almonds and other nuts formerly obtained from Europe and the Far East. Peanut imports were derived largely from the Orient prior to 1941 and more recently from Argentina.

PERU: Imports of peanuts and peanut oil, 1937 to 1942

YEAR	PEANUTS IN SHELL	PEANUT AND SESAME OIL	YEAR	PEANUTS IN SHELL	PEANUT AND SESAME OIL
	Pounds	*Pounds*		*Pounds*	*Pounds*
1937	332,079	a/ 594,620	1940	304,466	b/ 275,319
1938	309,837	a/ 791,659	1941	818	b/ 709,817
1939	278,589	a/ 562,096	1942	75	b/ 593,974

Compiled from a current consular report.

a/ Mostly sesame oil from the Netherlands. b/ Mostly peanut oil from Argentina.

COTTON AND OTHER FIBERS . . . . A. W. Palmer, in charge

ARGENTINE COTTON ACREAGE INCREASED IN 1943-44

The cotton acreage that has just been planted in Argentina is estimated at slightly more than 1,000,000 acres, compared with 899,200 acres planted in 1942-43 and 760,400 acres in 1941-42. Total increase over the past year's acreage is 11 percent, but the proportionate changes of acreage in the various Provinces varies from a decrease of 63 percent in Salta from last year's area of 8,200 acres, to an increase of 100 percent each in the smaller areas of Catamarca and Tucumán.

In Chaco, where approximately three-fourths of the Argentine cotton is grown, the acreage increase amounts to 14 percent of last year's planted area. An increase amounting to 18 percent has been seeded in Corrientes, which Province accounts for a little more than a tenth of the total cotton area.

The increase in the cotton acreage this year is believed to be the result of good yields in the 2 preceding years and of favorable weather conditions throughout most of the country at planting time for the present crop. Prices also have been favorable for the cotton growers in the past two seasons. The present condition of the crop is reported, in general, to be good.

ARGENTINA: Cotton area to be planted for 1943-44 crop compared with 1942-43 acreage, by Provinces

PROVINCE OR TERRITORY	ACREAGE		
	1942-43	1943-44 a/	PERCENTAGE OF INCREASE OR DECREASE
	Acres	*Acres*	*Percent*
Chaco	656,800	750,700	+14
Corrientes	88,700	105,000	+18
Formosa	59,300	62,300	+05
Santa Fe	51,600	39,000	-24
Santiago del Estero	21,500	24,500	+40
Salta	8,200	3,000	-63
Misiones	7,400	9,900	+34
Córdoba	3,500	2,700	-23
Catamarca	1,000	2,000	+100
Jujuy	700	700	0
Tucumán	500	1,000	+100
Total	899,200	1,000,800	+11

Compiled from consular reports. a/ Area to be planted.

COTTON PRODUCTION INCREASING IN FRENCH MOROCCO

Cotton production is increasing in French Morocco, and cultivation of the fiber is receiving much attention by the natives in the Protectorate, according to recent reports received by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. It is reliably estimated that the production in the 1943-44 crop year will amount to approximately 5,300 bales from about 7,710 acres. This is quite a noticeable increase from the acreage and production figures of 1937-38, when about 230 bales were produced on 642 acres.

Moroccan cotton is of the long-staple type, and is thought to be a derivative Of the Egyptian strains of cotton. It has a staple length that compares favorably with the Egyptian cotton, and in quality it is supposed to class equally with the Egyptian cottons, or better. In pre-war years, the Moroccan cotton was granted a premium on the market over the Egyptian cotton, due to the high class, and fairly consistent long staple.

The seed is sown in March, and picking begins in August and continues into December. In recent years, the average yield ranged from 178 to 267 pounds to the acre, which compares favorably with yields in the major producing areas of the world. In the earlier years when cotton was grown, it was cultivated almost exclusively by the European population, but the development by them is necessarily limited because of lack of the large amount of low-paid labor necessary to raise cotton successfully. The development in recent years has come as a result of cultivation by the natives, who, following the examples of the felahin in Egypt, made production a matter of family effort, rather than attempting large-scale cultivation. In 1943, the natives cultivated about 5,600 of the 7,710 acres devoted to cotton in Morocco.

Cotton cultivation in Morocco was not important until recent years, when certain improvements in the type of cotton planted have reduced the danger from cotton plant diseases, and at the same time increased the staple and quality of the fiber to bring a premium on the markets. Prior to 1937, land sown to cotton amounted to less than 250 acres, but since that year cultivation has developed rapidly, until this year, when it is estimated about 5,300 bales will be harvested from 7,710 acres.

COTTON: Acreage and production in Morocco, 1936-37 to 1942-43, estimated for 1943-44

YEAR BEGINNING AUGUST 1	AREA CULTIVATED	PRODUCTION a/
	Acres	*Bales*
1936-37	220	80
1937-38	640	230
1938-39	950	510
1939-40	1,730	850
1940-41	5,190	1,550
1941-42	3,210	1,120
1942-43	3,460	1,610
1943-44	7,710	5,300

Compiled from consular report.

a/ In bales of 478 pounds net.

GENERAL AND MISCELLANEOUS . . .

FOOD CONSUMPTION IN CANADA

With relatively few exceptions, food supplies moving into civilian consumption in Canada throughout the war period show substantial increases over pre-war levels, according to a study completed recently by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The study summarizes estimated "civilian consumption" in pounds per capita for the 5 pre-war years, 1935 - 1939, and for 1940 - 1942, and gives a preliminary estimate for 1943.

Despite increased exports of a number of important agricultural commodities and substantial demands for the military services, the Canadian production of most foodstuffs has been adequate to meet such demands and at the same time to leave increased quantities available for the civilian population, according to the report. Steady increases in employment and payrolls have increased the Canadian demand for food generally, and periodic shortages have occurred in certain areas despite the indicated increase in the national average figures. Transportation difficulties were also listed as a factor in the development of regional shortages of individual foods.

In the following tables all basic foods were grouped into 14 main commodity groups. Totals for each group were computed by using a common denominator for that group, such as milk solids (dry weights) in the case of the milk and milk products group; fat content in the case of fats and oils; and fresh equivalent in the case of fruits. All foods were included in their basic form, that is, as flour, fat, or sugar, rather than cakes or other manufactured food.

CANADA: Annual per capita supplies of food moving into civilian consumption, average 1935-1939, and annual 1940-1943

COMMODITY GROUP	1935-1939	1940	1941	1942	1943 a/
	Pounds	*Pounds*	*Pounds*	*Pounds*	*Pounds*
Milk and milk products, excluding butter - total milk solids	54.6	57.0	57.6	61.1	64.3
Meats, including cured and canned (as carcass weight)	120.1	120.1	126.5	127.8	134.4
Poultry, game, and fish (edible weight).	25.8	27.4	23.3	26.9	26.2
Eggs (fresh equivalent).	30.5	30.3	30.5	32.1	37.8
Oils and fats (fat content).	41.2	41.1	44.3	46.7	43.6
Sugars and sirups (sugar content) . . .	97.0	101.9	106.0	84.8	79.1
Potatoes	191.7	202.4	202.0	204.4	205.1
Pulses and nuts (unshelled weight) . . .	12.6	12.7	12.2	13.6	11.7
Tomatoes and citrus fruit (fresh fruit equivalent)	51.1	57.9	64.0	68.8	61.5
Other fruits and fruit products (fresh equivalent)	79.6	88.1	95.1	70.0	72.4
Leafy, green and yellow vegetables . . .	43.9	42.3	43.6	61.9	43.2
Other vegetables	34.0	31.1	27.4	41.3	32.8
Grain products	206.9	175.0	180.5	195.4	215.4
Beverages (tea, coffee, cocoa)	10.8	11.9	12.8	10.5	10.5

Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa, Canada. a/ Preliminary; subject to revision.

Commenting on the results of its findings, the Bureau stated: "Consumption of milk and milk products has increased substantially during the war period, particularly in the case of fluid milk. Cheese consumption has remained constant despite a sharp increase in the production. All of the additional supplies have been shipped to the United Kingdom. The increase indicated for milk in ice cream overstates the true civilian consumption as it was impossible to determine that portion of ice cream production which has been sold through military canteens.

"Total supplies of meats have also risen materially with the main increase occurring in beef. As meat rationing did not come into effect until May 1943 and as consumption was heavy during the early months of the year the effects of rationing are not reflected in the 1943 annual average figures. It will be noted that the consumption of pork was approximately the same in 1943 as during the pre-war period. The spectacular increase in hog production which has taken place has all been made available to the United Kingdom. There has been a gradual rise in the consumption of poultry meat over the war period but supplies of fish have declined as a result of reduced landings. The civilian consumption of eggs was maintained at about the pre-war level until 1942. In 1943, however, a rather sharp rise in consumption is indicated from the preliminary figures.

"In the oils and fats group butter consumption remained relatively constant until 1942 when a marked rise occurred. Rationing came into effect in December 1942 and the consumption in 1943 was reduced. The use of butter in hotels, restaurants and by food manufacturers accounts for the per capita consumption being greater than the ration allowance to individuals. Increased slaughtering of hogs has resulted in a substantial increase in available supplies of lard throughout the war period.

"After substantial increases in 1940 and 1941, the figures for sugar show the effect of rationing in 1942 and consumption has been further reduced in 1943. Again allocations to caterers and manufacturers and special allowances for home canning bring the per capita figures substantially above the ration allowance.

"Consumption of potatoes has increased since pre-war but the trend has been relatively constant since 1940. The sharp rise indicated in the supplies of beans in 1942 may not actually have been consumed in that year as no stock figures are available for this product and a proportion of the supply may have been carried over into 1943. Supplies of nuts have declined sharply as a result of reduced imports.

"Crop conditions have a marked effect on annual supplies of fresh fruits and vegetables produced in Canada and the year-to-year figures show considerable variations. Supplies in 1943, however, were for the most part as high as in the pre-war period although lower than some of the intervening years. Imports of citrus fruits have been increased but the greatly increased consumer demand has kept supplies below market requirements in many areas.

"In the grain products group, the annual figures are somewhat distorted by the lack of information on stocks held by jobbers, retailers and by householders. It is probable that the relatively low consumption indicated for 1940 and 1941 is an understatement of actual consumption in that substantial stocks of flour were accumulated late in 1939.

"The civilian per capita supply figures have been calculated after adjusting the total production figures for imports, exports, changes in stocks, marketing losses, seed, feed, non-food industrial uses, and supplies going to the armed forces. The final figures of civilian supplies were then divided by the total civilian population. All amounts are calculated at the retail stage of distribution except for meats which are at the wholesale stage. Amounts of the foods actually eaten would, however, be somewhat lower because of losses and wastes occurring after the products reach the hands of the consumers. For certain commodities figures of storage stocks, particularly in the hands of retailers and consumers were not available and thus the figures for any individual year may not give an entirely true picture of the consumption during that year."

CANADA: Annual per capita supplies of food moving into civilian consumption, average 1935-1939, and annual 1940-1943

COMMODITY	1935-1939	1940	1941	1942	1943 a/
Dairy products (excluding butter)	*Pounds*	*Pounds*	*Pounds*	*Pounds*	*Pounds*
Fluid whole milk (including cream)	403.3	413.9	408.7	433.5	456.3
Cheese, cheddar style	3.4	3.3	4.1	3.3	3.4
Cheese, other	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3
Cottage cheese	.1	.2	.2	.2	.2
Evaporated whole	6.1	8.3	8.9	11.2	12.1
Condensed whole	.6	.6	.4	.7	.6
Malted milk powder	.1	.09	.05	.07	.08
Dried whole	.1	.08	.2	.4	.6
Dried skim	1.8	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.1
Condensed skim	.4	.4	.4	.5	.4
Skim and buttermilk	2.6	2.8	3.5	5.8	5.2
Whole milk in ice cream	13.0	15.4	19.8	21.4	22.5
Total dairy products (milk solids)	54.6	57.0	57.6	61.1	64.3
Meats					
Beef with bone	54.4	54.4	58.3	59.5	70.1
Veal	10.4	10.7	11.0	10.2	9.1
Mutton and lamb	5.5	4.4	4.7	4.9	5.0
Pork	40.4	42.8	42.5	44.2	40.9
Offals	5.9	5.5	6.1	6.2	7.1
Canned meats	1.4	1.1	1.8	1.3	1.0
Total meats (edible)	97.3	97.8	102.6	104.1	110.3
(carcass)	120.1	120.1	126.5	127.8	134.4
Poultry, game, and fish					
Chickens	15.5	16.7	16.3	19.3	18.7
Other poultry	2.7	4.0	3.6	5.2	4.7
Game and rabbits b/	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3
Fresh and frozen fish	8.8	8.8	4.9	4.5	c/
Shell fish	.4	.4	.5	.3	c/
Canned fish	2.7	2.7	2.9	4.4	c/
Total poultry, game, and fish (edible portion)	25.8	27.4	23.3	26.9	d/ 26.2

Continued

CANADA: Annual per capita supplies of food moving into civilian consumption, average 1935-1939, and annual 1940-1943-Continued

COMMODITY	1935-1939	1940	1941	1942	1943 a/
	Pounds	*Pounds*	*Pounds*	*Pounds*	*Pounds*
Eggs					
Fresh	30.1	29.9	30.2	31.2	37.5
Dried	.1	.08	.07	.2	.06
Total eggs (fresh equivalent)	30.5	30.3	30.5	32.1	37.8
Oils and fats					
Butter	30.8	30.8	30.7	33.1	29.6
Lard	4.0	6.9	7.4	9.0	9.1
Shortening	10.5	7.4	10.1	8.8	8.4
Other oils and fats	1.8	1.9	1.9	2.1	2.1
Total oils and fats (fat content)	41.2	41.1	44.3	46.7	43.6
Sugars and sirups					
Refined sugar	90.6	96.2	100.3	77.7	72.1
Maple sugar	1.8	2.1	1.3	2.0	1.7
Corn and other sirups	1.0	.6	.7	1.7	1.4
Molasses	3.7	3.9	4.1	3.9	3.9
Honey	2.4	1.4	1.9	2.1	2.8
Total sugars and sirups (sugar content)	97.0	101.9	106.0	84.8	79.1
Potatoes					
White potatoes	191.1	201.8	201.4	203.7	204.7
Sweet potatoes	.6	.6	.6	.7	.4
Total potatoes	191.7	202.4	202.0	204.4	205.1
Pulses and nuts					
Dry beans	3.6	3.9	3.8	7.8	4.9
Dry peas	5.6	4.7	4.5	4.1	5.4
Soybeans	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1
Peanuts	2.2	2.8	3.1	1.0	1.2
Tree nuts	1.1	1.2	.7	.6	.1
Total pulses and nuts	12.6	12.7	12.2	13.6	11.7
Tomatoes and citrus					
Fresh tomatoes	8.3	5.1	8.2	3.8	6.9
Canned tomatoes and products	9.5	10.4	12.9	15.2	8.8
Tomatoes, pulp, puree, etc.	.4	3.2	.3	1.7	1.0
Fresh citrus	25.0	27.3	29.8	33.3	37.6
Canned citrus	.5	1.0	1.8	1.4	0.1
Total tomatoes and citrus (as fresh)	51.1	57.9	64.0	68.8	61.5

Continued -

CANADA: Annual per capita supplies of food moving into civilian consumption, average 1935-1939, and annual 1940-1943 -Continued

COMMODITY	1935-1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
Other fruit	*Pounds*	*Pounds*	*Pounds*	*Pounds*	*Pounds*
Fresh fruit	40.3	48.9	58.2	37.3	39.1
Canned fruit	6.3	6.3	6.5	7.8	3.5
Frozen fruit	0.2	.1	0.4	0.1	0.2
Dried fruit	8.2	8.2	7.5	6.2	7.4
Total other fruit (fresh equivalent)	79.6	88.1	95.1	70.0	72.4
Leafy, green and yellow vegetables					
Fresh cabbage and spinach	12.5	12.3	14.1	19.9	12.3
Lettuce	3.6	3.6	3.8	4.1	3.6
Fresh carrots	15.3	14.9	11.9	22.2	17.6
Fresh legumes	6.1	4.4	4.2	5.6	3.2
Canned (net contents) -					
Cabbage and spinach	.4	.5	.7	.4	.2
Carrots	.05	.07	.07	.2	.2
Legumes	5.9	6.5	8.8	9.5	6.1
Total leafy, green and yellow vegetables	43.9	42.3	43.6	61.9	43.2
Other vegetables					
Fresh	29.6	27.6	22.9	36.3	28.1
Canned (net contents)	4.4	3.5	4.5	5.0	4.7
Total other vegetables	34.0	31.1	27.4	41.3	32.8
Grain products					
Pot and pearl barley	.3	.3	.3	.4	.5
Corn meal and flour	1.4	.9	.3	.4	.5
Corn starch	2.2	1.5	1.9	1.8	2.0
Buckwheat flour	.2	.1	.1	.1	.1
Oatmeal and rolled oats	7.3	5.7	7.5	6.3	7.6
Rice (milled)	4.3	3.6	4.0	2.8	4.0
Rye (flour)	.3	.2	.2	.4	.4
Wheat cereals (including other)	7.4	4.9	6.4	5.9	5.8
White flour	183.2	157.5	159.5	177.2	194.5
Tapioca, sago and arrowroot	.3	.3	.3	.1	.03
Total grain products	206.9	175.0	180.5	195.4	215.4
Beverages					
Tea	3.5	3.6	3.2	2.7	2.1
Coffee (green beans)	3.6	3.6	4.3	3.9	4.0
Cocoa (green beans)	3.7	4.7	5.3	3.9	4.4
Total beverages	10.8	11.9	12.8	10.5	10.5

Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa, Canada.

a/ Preliminary; subject to revision. b/ Estimate by Department of Mines and Resources.
c/ Not available. d/ Assuming no change in fish from 1942.

MEXICAN BEAN CROP LOWER

The 1943 Mexican bean crop, excluding garbanzos, is estimated at 3,417,000 bags of 100 pounds each, a reduction of some 15 percent from the record crop of 4,078,000 bags in 1942. The reduction is attributed largely to the 1943 drought, described by some as the worst since 1900. Both the 1943 acreage and production, however, were well above those of any year in the 1936-1940 period.

The 1943 bean crop is thought to be ample to meet domestic needs until the 1944 harvest, which begins in August, although some part of the present carry-over may be needed. Recent reports indicate that the Mexican Government may permit exports from the existing large stocks early in 1944. Exports were banned during most of 1943 to avoid inflationary bean prices, and only 72,750 bags were shipped. This was less than one-fourth of the 265,475 bags exported in 1942. The United States was the principal buyer in both 1942 and 1943. Cuba, the other buyer, purchased 1,785 bags in 1942 and 1943.

Beans are a major staple crop in Mexican agriculture. They are harvested throughout the year, the main commercial harvest beginning in August and ending in December. Approximately 200 varieties are grown, although only a few are of importance. The "Frijol Bayo Gordo," a pinkish tan-colored bean similar to the "Bayo" commercially grown in the United States, accounts for about 50 percent of the total Mexican crop. The black beans, "Frijol Negro," are next in importance, amounting to 20 percent of the crop. Third in importance is the "Palacios," a yellowish green bean, which accounts for 5 percent of the total. Other important varieties are: Parraleno, Amapola, Cocona, Flor de Mayo, Canario, Alubia Grande, Alubia Chica, Haba (Broad bean), and red kidney.

Beans and corn are normally interplanted, and it was first thought that the bean crop had suffered from last year's drought fully as much as the corn crop. Preliminary estimates of production, however, do not bear this out. Acreage yields for corn were reduced by 25 percent whereas the yield for beans was reduced by only 9 percent compared with 1942, or 199 pounds per acre. The yield of 219 pounds of beans per acre in 1942 was the highest since 1933.

Mexico is not normally an important exporter of beans, but the large acreages and good yields in recent years resulted in the accumulation of relatively large stocks. It is expected that Mexico will, in the light of current requirements, permit the export of a part of this surplus. The Bayo, red kidney, and other types are in demand in the export market.

Wholesale bean prices in Mexico City remained fairly steady during the 6 years 1938-1943, although the colored beans, "Frijol Colores Primeras," which include all varieties other than Frijol Negro and Frijol Bayo Gordo, were somewhat higher in 1943 than in 1940 and 1942. The Bayos, which averaged about 1.8 cents per pound in 1943, or at approximately the same level since October 1941, were only 0.7 cent per pound below the 1939 level. Prices of black beans averaged around 3.3 cents, or approximately the same as in 1942, but at this price they were well above those of earlier years (1938-1941).

FOREIGN EXCHANGE . . .

EXCHANGE RATES: Average value in New York of specified currencies, week ended January 8, 1944 with comparisons a/

COUNTRY	MONETARY UNIT	YEAR 1942	MONTH 1941 DEC.	MONTH 1942 DEC.	MONTH 1943 NOV.	MONTH 1943 DEC.	WEEK ENDED 1943 DEC. 25	WEEK ENDED 1944 JAN. 1	WEEK ENDED 1944 JAN. 8
		Cents	*Cents*	*Cents*	*Cents*	*Cents*	*Cents*	*Cents*	*Cents*
Argentina b/	Paper peso	29.77	29.77	29.77	29.77	29.77	29.77	29.77	29.77
Australia c/	Pound	321.50	321.50	321.50	322.80	322.80	322.80	322.80	322.80
Brazil d/	Cruzeiro	5.14	5.13	5.15	5.13	5.13	5.13	5.13	5.13
British India	Rupee	30.12	30.13	30.12	30.12	30.12	30.12	30.12	30.12
Canada e/	Dollar	88.38	87.39	87.88	89.42	89.40	89.86	89.72	89.67
Mexico	Peso	20.57	20.56	20.57	20.58	20.58	20.58	20.58	20.58
New Zealand	Pound	322.78	322.78	322.78	324.42	324.42	324.42	322.42	324.42
South Africa	Pound	398.00	398.00	398.00	398.00	398.00	398.00	398.00	398.00
United Kingdom c/	Pound	403.50	403.50	403.50	403.50	403.50	403.50	403.50	403.50
Uruguay f/	Peso	52.72	52.78	52.73	53.00	52.97	52.95	52.95	52.95

Federal Reserve Board.

a/ Noon buying rates for cable transfers.

b/ Official, regular exports. The special export rate of 23.70 cents, reported beginning March 27, 1941, applies to exchange derived from certain minor exports (e.g. dairy products) to certain countries (e.g. United States), such exchange formerly having been sold in the free market. Quotations nominal.

c/ Free prior to February 2, 1943. Quotation of free rate discontinued after February 1, 1943, when regulations were issued by the British Treasury transforming all free sterling balances into registered sterling, convertible into dollars at the official rate.

d/ Free. Under law of October 6, 1942, the cruzeiro became the unit of currency, replacing the milreis. The cruzeiro has the same value as the milreis. Since April 10, 1939, 30 percent of the exchange derived from exports must be turned over at the official buying rate of 6.06 cents, the weighted average value of the milreis being 5.42 cents in 1942, the value of the cruzeiro 5.41 cents in December 1943 and 5.41 cents in the week ended January 8, 1944. Quotations nominal.

e/ Free. Most transactions between Canada and the United States take place at the official buying and selling rates.

f/ Noncontrolled. Quotations nominal.